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Council on Aging Minutes 02/16/06

The following minutes of the February 16, 2006 Regular Meeting were approved at the Regular Meeting of the COA on March 23, 2006.

ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING
 27 Maple Street
 Arlington, MA 02476-4909

Robert Tosi, Jr., Chair
 Paul West, Vice Chair
 Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Regular Meeting of the Council on Aging
 February 16, 2006

MINUTES

Place and Time of Meeting: Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St., Arlington, 7:30 p.m. Members Present: Robert Tosi, Jr., Paul West, Robert Carey, Mildred Hurd, Ruth Palombo, Harry McCabe, William Carey (joined the meeting at 7:40; did not vote on the minutes) and Shirley Chapski.

Members Absent: Ann MacGowan.

Others Present: John Jope, COA Executive Director; Elisa Lopez, President, Arlington Seniors Assoc.; John Deyst, Jr. and Mary Margaret Franclemont, both of the Arlington Finance Cte.

Quorum Identification/Call to Order: Bob Tosi, Jr. presided and Shirley Chapski, Secretary, kept the minutes. A quorum of 8 was present.

Minutes of the January 12, 2006 Special Meeting : Shirley moved to receive the minutes of the January 12 special meeting, Paul seconded, all in favor. There being no corrections, Shirley voted to approve the minutes, Paul seconded, Harry abstained because he was absent from said meeting; six voted in favor. Motion carried. Minutes of the January 19, 2006 Regular Meeting: Shirley moved to receive the minutes of the January 19, 2006 meeting, Bob Carey seconded, all in favor. There being no corrections, Bob Carey moved to approve the minutes, Mildred seconded, 7 in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes of the January 26, 2006 COA Finance Committee Meeting: Paul moved to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2006 Finance Cte. meeting, Shirley seconded, the Executive Committee voted in favor. Motion carried.

Citizens' Open Forum: John Deyst, Jr. and Mary Margaret Franclemont, Arlington Finance Committee and the subcommittee which oversees Human Services budgets, met with the board in follow up to the FINCOM hearings of Monday, Feb 6, 2006. The Chair proceeded to Item #5 of the agenda:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Review of FINCOM Meeting/Warrant Articles:

Bob Tosi reported that at the FINCOM meeting he learned that the warrant article on funding a COA exercise program had been pulled. Harry said that pulling the article was illegal. Bob Tosi will refer the matter to Town Counsel. After discussion, Paul moved that if we do get a favorable opinion from Town Counsel we vote tonight to have the article on funding an exercise program included in the warrant; Ruth seconded; 7 in favor; Bob Tosi abstained. Motion carried. Ms. Franclemont said there is not enough money in the budget for all three requests for funding, but if the Finance Committee could find a way to put the Harry Barber program back into the budget, they would probably vote to accept it. It is hoped that the COA could fund the exercise program and the Minuteman Fair Share program. Mr. Deyst reported that the Finance Committee met last night and will do their best to support the COA. Discussion followed concerning the '07 Budget and the Sevyan funds. The Board expressed its thanks to Mr. Deyst and Ms. Franclemont for attending and

they departed the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Executive Director's Report:

The Executive Director's report is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. John made the following additional statements:

Item #1 Letter to Lahey Clinic Clients: By letter dated January 27, John informed those riders using the temporary \$10 round-trip rate for COA van service to Lahey Burlington and Lexington that this service will no longer be available when Lahey opens its offices on Broadway. Instead, arrangements for transportation to the Broadway medical offices can be made through Dial-a-Ride, a subsidized taxi service. The vans will still be available for transport to Lahey-Burl. and Lahey-Lex. at the subsidized rate of \$10/each way.

Item #2 Medicare Part D Program: Ann MacGowan and Paul West, have received training to help in this effort and ASA has offered the use its computers. Each client signs a disclaimer before beginning his/her session with a volunteer.

Item #4 COA Finance Committee: The Finance Committee met on January 26 to start going over the COA accounts. There is an opening for a third committee member.

Item #6 Annual Volunteer Appreciation Function April 28, 2006: Plans are under way for this event.

Item #7 MCOA Campaign – Food For Thought: A Brown Bag lobbying effort is presently underway to alert our state legislators that the MCOA is seeking a \$2 million increase in formula grant funding for FY07. John and Bob Tosi met with Jim Marzilli's aides to point out the need for the increase.

Financial Report: John distributed a revised financial report dated January 2006 calling the board's attention to the following accounts:

Municipal Accounts: • Elder Affairs: John was required to submit two different budgets for Formula Grant funds for FY06, one for \$48,235 and the other for \$52,143. The check for the higher amount has been received. • Transportation: John reviewed the Transportation figures which show a balance of \$86,727. • COA Subsidy Funds: The Transportation Subsidy Fund and the Mt. Auburn Medical Appt. Subsidy Fund have run out. For that reason, \$3000 was moved in February from the Gift Fund to the Transportation Subsidy Fund to cover expected bills. Transfers totaling \$8,000 have been made from the Gift Fund to the Transportation Subsidy Fund. Consequently, the Gift Fund is down \$8000. Discussion followed about replenishing the Gift Fund. Harry moved that we do not take funds out of the Gift Fund to support the Transportation Subsidy Funds; Mildred seconded, all in favor. Motion carried. Bob Tosi recommended replenishing the Gift Fund by transferring \$8000 from the Sevyan Fund to the Gift fund and asked for a motion. Paul moved to transfer \$8,000 from the Sevyan Fund to replenish the \$8,000 that has been drawn from the COA Gift Fund for transportation; Ruth seconded. Harry next moved to table the above motion; there was no seconding motion. The main motion was still on the floor. Main Motion: 6 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstained. Motion carried. Next, Harry moved to reconsider the above vote; Bob Carey seconded; 3 ayes, 5 nos. Motion not carried. Ruth asked John if he learns that funds can be transferred from the Transportation Fund that he report back to the board.

NEW BUSINESS:

COA FY07 CDBG Application: John is recommending level funding with one exception, Item C: Volunteers Services Coordinator . The total requested amount of CDBG funding for FY07 is \$101,874. After discussion, Harry moved to approve the COA CDBG funding requests for FY07; Paul seconded; all in favor. Motion carried. Copies of the Status Report for this year's block grant funding and the COA Budget for FY07 were distributed. **Review/Discussion of the Joint COA / ASA Committee Meeting:** Bob reported that the Joint committee meeting was very productive and serves a great purpose. Issues were brought out and discussed, one of which was the showing of movies by the COA. Because this undertaking has created some disagreement with the ASA, John agreed not to pursue this activity. A Health Fair is planned for October 2006. Harry said the COA showing movies conflicts with the ASA's mission and he moved that John Jope not interfere in the mission of the Arlington Seniors Association; there was no seconding motion. Motion not carried.

OTHER REPORTS:

In view of the lateness of the hour, it was agreed to dispense with the other reports. Due to prior commitments by John and some members, it was agreed to hold the March board meeting on the 23rd instead of the 16th.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Paul moved to adjourn; Bob Carey seconded; all in favor. Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Next Regular Meeting, March 23, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 16, 2006

the mission of the council on aging is to provide advocacy and support services
to help arlington elders live dignified and independent lives

1. A letter went out to all clients who took advantage of our COA-subsidized trips to Lahey Burlington, Wall Street, and Lahey Lexington. A copy is included in this package.
2. Requests for help with Medicare D continue. Many thanks to the two volunteers (the Medicare D "B Team") who now have been trained in the process to help clients research Medicare D possibilities. Their efforts will supplement those of the regular SHINE counselors and should be a big help in attempting to assist as many as we can. It is a detailed, frustrating and time-consuming process, and the rules change almost daily. The Seniors Association is allowing these volunteers the use of their computer equipment when serving their clients as internet access to the federal Medicare website is a necessary part of the process.
3. The joint boards committee held their second meeting on Feb. 7. Discussion included the senior center newsletter, the rehab needs of the senior center spaces, the old-time movies starting to be offered to seniors on one Tuesday a month, and initial plans for a jointly-sponsored health fair, to be scheduled for October 2006.
4. The COA finance committee met on January 25.
5. Representatives of the COA met with the Arlington Finance Committee on February 6 to request support for our three warrant articles.
6. The committee to arrange the annual volunteer appreciation dinner is being formed, and initial plans are under way. The event is scheduled for April 28.